

area's labor unions is an inspiration and example for us all. My congratulations go to Bill Tweet for these significant contributions.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY
RECOGNIZES AMY B. MANSUE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Amy Mansue, who is being honored by Planned Parenthood of Central New Jersey on Tuesday, May 23, 2000.

Ms. Mansue will receive Planned Parenthood's Fred Forrest Community Service Award. This award recognizes people who view their passion for Planned Parenthood in the context of a fundamental commitment to improving their community in many ways.

Amy Mansue has served as a Policy Advisor in the Governor's Office of Management and Policy on health, human services and women's issues. Also, she served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, where she oversaw the Divisions of Youth and Family Services, Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Hospitals, Medical Assistance and Health Services, and the Office of Education.

Currently, Ms. Mansue is the Senior Vice President of Corporate Business Development of HIP Plans. Prior to this she served as President and CEO of HIP Plan of New Jersey, a not-for-profit health plan.

Amy Mansue's commitment to her community is evident by the multitude of boards she has served on, including St. David's Vestry, the University of Alabama School of Social Work Advisory Committee, PAM's List, New Jersey Center for Public Analysis, and the New Jersey Community Development Corporation.

Ms. Mansue's peers have recognized her efforts through the years. She has been honored for her achievements by the New Jersey National Association of Social Workers as Social Worker of the Year, Modern Health Care's 1998 Up and Coming Healthcare Executive, the United Cerebral Palsy Association's Boggs Award and the New Jersey State Nurses Association's President's Award.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication of Amy Mansue serves as an excellent example to the citizens of New Jersey. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Amy Mansue.

INCREASE THE PEACE DAY

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing an important resolution which urges the House of Representatives to support "Increase the Peace Day" events throughout the country.

On April 20, 2000, on the one-year anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School,

students, teachers, parents, and community leaders from Challenger Middle School in Lake Los Angeles, California hosted an "Increase the Peace Day".

The program featured the formation of a human peace sign and a presentation by a former skinhead who turned his life around and now works with the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance.

The highlight of the day was when the 650 students of Challenger signed an "Increase the Peace Pledge" in order to avoid any similar acts of school violence. Among the promises in the Pledge were to find a peaceful solution to conflicts, to not hit another person, to not threaten another person, to report all rumors of violence to an adult, to celebrate diversity, and to seek help when feeling lonely or confused.

I was proud to join the other supporters of "Increase the Peace Day" and be a part of this incredible event. I would like to take a moment to recognize the outstanding efforts of teacher Bruce Galler who came up with the original idea for "Increase the Peace Day" because he believes that something can be done.

Bruce uses a quote by Edward Everett Hale on all literature to promote the event and I believe it illustrates what each of those students accomplished last month. The quote is as follows, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."

That day, I promised to introduce this resolution in order to show that as one Member of Congress, I can do something to highlight this important event and encourage all Americans to reject anger and hate and instead to promote peace and community.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution and to encourage their local communities to institute a similar program.

SHARING AN ARTICLE FROM
MARTIN RAPAPORT: "GUILT TRIP"

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I share with our colleagues a moving plea written by one of the most respected experts in the diamond industry to other members of the industry.

Martin Rapaport, publisher of one of the top trade publications, traveled to Sierra Leone in the weeks before United Nations peacekeepers were captured. His article, "Guilt Trip," was written to propose a solution to the mayhem war diamonds fuel. It needs no embellishing, and I excerpt it here for my colleagues' review:

I don't know how to tell this story. There are no words to describe what I have seen in Sierra Leone. My mind tells me to block out the really bad stuff, to deny the impossible reality. But the images of the amputee camp haunt me and the voices of the victims cry out. 'Tell them what has happened to us,' say the survivors. 'Show them what the diamonds have done to us.'

"I am angry. I am upset. I am afraid that my words will not be strong enough to convey the suffering and injustice I have witnessed. How do I tell you about Maria, a pretty eight-month-old baby whose arm has been hacked off by the rebels? How can I fully describe the amputee camp with 1,400 people living in huts made of plastic sheets, babies in cardboard boxes, food cooked in open fires on the ground, no electricity or plumbing—everywhere you look someone is missing an arm, a leg or both. What can I say about the tens of thousands that live in displaced persons camps without adequate medicine, food, clothing and shelter.

Friends, members of the diamond trade. Please, stop and think for a minute. Read my words. Perhaps what is happening in Sierra Leone is our problem. Perhaps it is our business.

Sierra Leone is a beautiful country. It has a cornucopia of natural resources and a population that includes many well educated, highly intelligent people. In spite of the wars, which have decimated the population and destroyed the basic infrastructure of the country, the people of Sierra Leone are industrious and kind-hearted. During my visit last week, the capital, Freetown, was bustling with people trying to rebuild their lives and their country.

While there is much to be hopeful and optimistic about, the peace process is moving too slowly. The diamonds are holding up the peace process. The war in Sierra Leone is about power. It is about who controls the country, how they control it and what they do with their control. There is a strong perception that he who controls the diamonds will control the country.

Simply put, Sierra Leone's diamond industry is totally black market, underground, illegal and corrupt. Hundreds of millions of dollars of Sierra Leone diamonds are being traded on the world markets without any benefit going to the government, or people, of Sierra Leone.

The bastards are not just stealing Sierra Leone's diamonds, they are trading them for guns. Guns which are used to kill people to keep the war going, which assures that the government will not be able to control the illegal trade, assuring that the bad guys can continue to steal the diamonds. The real challenge facing Sierra Leone and the world diamond trade, is how to stop this horrific murderous cycle of illegal diamond activity.

The problems of Sierra Leone are so great and discouraging that one hesitates to suggest solutions. . . [but] the situation in Africa is such that we must adopt a pro-active attitude towards the resolution of problems. We cannot sit back and write off the problems of Africa as unsolvable—the human suffering is simply too great.

The diamond industry must address the fact that illegal diamonds from Sierra Leone and other war zones are in fact finding their way into the diamond marketplace. While the industry in general cannot solve Sierra Leone's problems it can, and must, take realistic measures to assure that illegal diamonds are excluded from the marketplace.

The bottom line is that our industry must stop dealing with questionable diamonds. Consider the market for stolen diamonds and jewelry. Now we all know that these markets exist in a limited way, but no decent, legitimate or even semi-honest diamond dealer would ever consider buying stolen diamonds. When you buy a stolen diamond you encourage the thieves to go out and steal another diamond. You endanger your own life and you destroy the security of your business.

Would we walk around saying there is no way to tell if a diamond is stolen and just let the thieves market prosper? By the way—how is it that our industry is able to self-regulate in a reasonable manner against thieves, but not against conflict diamonds? Is the life of a black in Sierra Leone worth less than the life of a diamond dealer or jeweler in the U.S.?

Mr. Speaker, I met Mr. Rapaport before I went to Sierra Leone last year, and I have heard the industry's admiration for him. He and his colleagues are savvy, clever business people. I am confident they not only can figure out how to stop war diamonds from enriching butchers—but, more importantly, how to turn diamonds' economic potential into a positive force for the African people who so need that.

I applaud Mr. Rapaport for making his trip to Sierra Leone and for eloquently appealing to the diamond industry to find a solution to this urgent problem. And I urge my colleagues to join me in pressing for a targeted solution to the diamond smuggling that is destroying Sierra Leone's democracy and its people.

Please join Sierra Leone's democratic government, the U.S. diamond industry, and some of our most thoughtful colleagues in supporting H. Con. Res. 323.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXCELLENCE OF MARIEMONT HIGH SCHOOL'S DESTINATION IMAGINATION TEAM

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Mariemont High School's Destination Imagination Team. The team has seven students: Carrie Badanes, Lizzy Anthony, Bobby Zepf, Juli Newton, Ben Cober, John Rutherford and Kate Young. They are coached by Anne Badanes and Sue Cober, and will compete in the 2000 Destination Imagination world championships. The competition will be held in Ames, Iowa on May 24–27.

During the event, the Mariemont team will compete using its creativity, teamwork, and wits to solve difficult problems. The teams are judged by their ability to integrate a myriad of elements into a performance, which draws upon their knowledge of history, their acting skills, and their ability to improvise. Since last December, the Mariemont High School team has trained extensively. They have spent many hours working with their coaches, learning new skills, researching history, and attending live performances of a professional improvisation group at the Aronoff Center in Cincinnati. In addition, they continue to work with their teacher, Carrie Dattillo, honing their acting skills.

In 1999, the Mariemont High School team placed first at the regional competition and second at the state competition in Columbus. In previous years, the team has always placed second or third in the region and has won an unprecedented three Renatra Fusca awards for outstanding creativity. This year, they took first place in the regional and state competitions. At the regional competition, in March,

they were awarded the prestigious DaVinci Award for outstanding creativity and teamwork. They are the first team from the Mariemont School District to compete in the world championships, and they are the sole team representing the Greater Cincinnati area.

We are very proud of the Mariemont team's accomplishments, and all of us in the Cincinnati area wish its members the very best in their upcoming competition.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, BRANCH 70, BRANCH 1100, BRANCH 2525: COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I recognize the National Association of Letter Carriers Branches 70, 1100, and 2525, as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, at its 12th annual Worker's Memorial Dinner with its Community Service Award.

Some eight years ago the National Association of Letter Carriers began its annual food drive and has collected millions of pounds of food every year since. In 1999, more than 1,500 local National Association of Letter Carriers branches in more than 10,000 cities and towns across the country collected a total of over 50 million pounds of food for the needy.

NALC Branch 70, Branch 1100, and Branch 2525 annually collect large amounts of food that directly benefit families in need in our community. Their food drive provides local food banks and pantries with food to serve to needy families throughout the year.

The NALC's commitment to serving the community and especially those members of our community who are most in need is exemplary and worthy of our highest praise. My congratulations go to National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 70, Branch 1100, and Branch 2525 for these significant contributions.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES SUSAN N. WILSON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Susan Wilson of Princeton, who is being honored by Planned Parenthood of Central New Jersey on Tuesday, May 23, 2000.

Ms. Wilson will receive Planned Parenthood's Vivian Aaron Leadership Award. This award, created by the children of Vivian Aaron, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated leadership within their community in the areas of education and family communication.

Susan Wilson served on the New Jersey State Board of Education from 1977 to 1982. It was there that she championed the effort to

establish a statewide mandate for family education in all New Jersey schools.

Since 1983, Ms. Wilson has served as the executive coordinator for the Network for Family Life Education at Rutgers University's School of Social Work. In her present capacity she has become a leader in the fight for effective family life/sexuality education and prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

In 1998, Susan Wilson received the Richard J. Cross Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Field of Human Sexuality from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. In past years, she has also been the recipient of a Children's Defense Fund Leadership Award and a New Jersey Woman of Achievement Award from Douglas College.

Susan Wilson is a great asset to Central New Jersey. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Susan Wilson's dedication to her community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS OF 2000

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleague, Mr. GOODLING, and I are introducing the Higher Education Technical Amendments of 2000. Many of my colleagues will remember that in the last Congress we enacted the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 on a bipartisan basis. The passage of that Act was one of the most important pieces of legislation we enacted for students and their parents. I want to again thank Chairman GOODLING for his leadership on that bill. Throughout that process he kept members focused on our goal of improving our student financial aid system. Additionally, I want to acknowledge his leadership in crafting this technical package, which will improve the implementation of the 1998 Amendments. I also want to thank the Committee Ranking Member, Mr. CLAY, the former Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. KILDEE, and the current Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. MARTINEZ. The 1998 amendments, which we crafted together, have been a great success, and our continued efforts on this legislation will only improve on those results.

As Chairman GOODLING noted in his statement, the legislation introduced today is technical in nature, but also makes policy adjustments that we believe are necessary to ensure that the Act is implemented in the way Congress intended. We worked with many organizations and individuals who put forth proposals for our consideration. We included those which are bipartisan in nature, benefit students and their parents, and are paid for. Our goal is to pass a bill that can be acted upon by the other body and enacted into law in the near future.

The legislation we are introducing today will improve our national early outreach efforts by making modifications to the TRIO and GEAR UP programs. The bill allows participating organizations to provide grant aid to students